

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-20-21
May 22, 2020
NPDES No. CA0104248

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR**

**PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE ORDER (TSO) R7-2020-0019
REQUIRING COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER R7-2020-0006 (NPDES NO. CA0104248)
ISSUED TO
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION
EL CENTRO, IMPERIAL COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment the proposed Time Schedule Order R7-2020-0019 (Proposed Order), which requires compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2020-0006 (NPDES No. R7-2020-0006) for Imperial Irrigation District's (Discharger) El Centro Generating Station (Facility), located at the following address:

**IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION
485 EAST VILLA ROAD
EL CENTRO – IMPERIAL COUNTY**

Staff of the Colorado River Basin Water Board have prepared the Proposed Order for the Discharger to establish a time schedule of no more than five years for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitations for copper, lead, selenium, thallium, and zinc contained in Order R7-2020-0006, in accordance with Water Code section 13385(j)(3)(C). The public hearing to consider adoption of the Proposed Order will be on:

Date: July 9, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the June 9, 2020 Board meeting will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meeting,

including a phone call option, will be posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board_info/agenda/.

BACKGROUND

The Imperial Irrigation District (Discharger) owns and operates the El Centro Generating Station (Facility) located at 485 East Villa Road, El Centro, CA 92243, in Imperial County. The Facility is a steam electric generating facility that provides immediate and base load electrical power to serve the Imperial Valley and consists of three steam turbine generators and three gas turbine generators, with a total of four generating units. The total capacity of the Facility is 347 megawatts and power generating units are primarily natural gas-fired. All units are cooled using water circulated through unit-specific cooling towers. The Facility utilizes four cooling towers, five fuel storage tanks, and six raw water storage/settling basins. Colorado River water via the Dogwood Canal is used to provide water for cooling and other facility operations. The Facility has a potential to discharge a maximum of 0.995 million gallons per day (MGD) of industrial cooling water (i.e., commingled cooling tower blowdown, reverse osmosis reject water, and evaporative cooling water) to Central Drain No. 5, which flows to the Alamo River and then into the Salton Sea, a water of the United States.

Based upon results of effluent monitoring, the Discharger is or will be unable to consistently comply with the effluent limitations for copper, lead, selenium, thallium, and zinc established in Order R7-2020-0006. These limitations are based on new requirements that became applicable after the effective date of Order R7-2020-0006 and after July 1, 2000, for which new or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the limitations, and new or modified control measures cannot not be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days. The Proposed Order establishes a time schedule of no more than five years for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the final effluent limitations for copper, lead, selenium, thallium, and zinc in Order R7-2020-0006.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins **May 22, 2020**, and ends **June 22, 2020**. Written comments on the proposed Time Schedule Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m., June 22, 2020**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record. If written comments to the Colorado River Basin Water Board are not timely submitted, however, the Board Chair may refuse to accept such evidence or admit it into the administrative record unless the commenter can demonstrate why he or she was unable to timely submit the evidence, that compliance with the deadline would create an unreasonable hardship, or that allowing the evidence would not prejudice any party or the Colorado River Basin Water Board. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.4.)

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Jose Valle de Leon at the address shown below or email to: Jose.ValledeLeon@Waterboards.ca.gov or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A copy of the Proposed Order is available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.html

If you need a hard copy of the Proposed Order mailed to you, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or by e-mail at:

Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov.

HEARING PROCEDURE

Affected stakeholders and other interested persons are invited to attend and express their views on this matter at the public hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. In addition, to ensure accuracy of the record, the Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that any speakers who have prepared written statements for oral presentation at the hearing submit those statements to Board staff before or during the hearing.

Interested persons are invited to express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or by e-mail at Hilda.Vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or by email at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.